

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9784

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

MEMBASSY BUCHAREST 1325

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, UR, US

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN REACTION TO BREZHNEV VISIT

1. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS BREZHNEV' S VISIT TO US HAS BEEN
LEADING ITEM IN HUNGARIAN PRESS AND THROUGHOUT WEEK OF VISIT
ONE FOURTH OF TELEVISION NEWS AND 1-2 PAGES OF LEADING DAILIES
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO COVERAGE OF TRIP. EDITORIAL
REPEATEDLY HAILED SUMMIT MEETING AS " HISTORIC EVENT" AND
PORTRAYED IT AS LATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT IN SERIES OF
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE CREATED MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE
IN EAST- WEST RELATIONS THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE WORLD WAR II.
SUMMARY COMMENT IN JUNE 24 NEPSZABADSAG REFLECTS GENERAL
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TONE OF EDITORIAL OPINION, SAYING WORLD " HAS FINALLY REACHED THRESHOLD OF LASTING PERIOD OF REDUCED TENSION", ADDING THAT A SITUATION HAS BEEN CREATED WHERE LARGE PROPORTION OF RESOURCES OF SOCIALISM NEED NOT BE TIED TO DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BUT CAN BE USED TO AID PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AREAS AND HELP PREPARE FOR MORE INTENSIVE COMPETITION WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THESE AREAS BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

2. HUNGARIAN REMARKS CONCERNING SUMMIT CONTINUALLY STRESS THREE WELL WORN THEMES, IN ADDITION TO ABOVE. FIRST IS THAT REDUCTION IN TENSIONS HAVE DIRECT RESULT OF GROWING STRENGTH OF SOVIET UNION AND SOVIET POLICY SUCCESSES WHICH HAVE FORCED US TO ABANDON ITS POLICY OF THREATENING SOCIALIST CAMP WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ALL COMMENTATORS UNFAILINGLY ADD THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS WILL NOT MEAN AN END TO FIERCE COMPETITION BETWEEN SOCIALIST BLOC AND CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. FINALLY, HUNGARIAN WRITING ON SUMMIT CONTINUALLY POINTS OUT THAT US-SOVIET COOPERATION NOT A SUPER POWER CONSPIRACY DIRECTED AGAINST THIRD PARTIES, BUT IN FACT BENEFICIAL TO ALL PEACE- LOVING NATIONS.

3. COMMENTS ON BREZHNEV VISIT DOWNPLAY POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED TRADE AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS WHICH HUNGARY AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HOPING FOR AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED EAST- WEST RELATIONS. HOWEVER, CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT OF JUNE 27 DOES EXPRESS HOPE FOR INCREASED TRADE LINKS WITH WEST AND AGAIN SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN CEMA AND EEC (BUDAPEST 2460). THIS CALL FOR FORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN CEMA AND EEC LIKELY TO BE FREQUENTLY MENTIONED BY HUNGARIANS IN FUTURE SINCE, IN SPITE OF ALL ITS PRAISE FOR SUMMIT, OUR CONTACTS HERE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WISH TO BE BENEFICIARIES AND NOT VICTIMS OF INCREASED EAST- WEST CONTACT. NAGGING FEAR SEEMS TO PERSIST HERE THAT SIZEABLE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND USSR MAY WELL WORK TO THE DETRIMENT OF RESOURCE- POOR HUNGARY. OTHER INTERESTING REMARK IS NEPSZABADSAG' S REFERENCE TO POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING MILITARY SPENDING AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL SITUATION SUGGESTING THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN GOH MAY WISH TO USE DETENTE ATMOSPHERE TO POSSIBLY REDUCE HUNGARIAN MILITARY BUDGET. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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